

MEDIA RELEASE

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Shire of Ashburton Council Suspended

The West Australian Government has announced the suspension of the Shire of Ashburton Council, and appointed a Commissioner.

The Governor's Order comes into effect today following the announcement by the Local Government Minister John Castrilli MLA.

The Minister requires each member of the Council of the Shire of Ashburton to undertake governance training in the responsibilities and functions of a Council, with focus on the statutory compliance duties of local government.

The Council suspension comes three weeks after Shire of Ashburton CEO Jeff Breen was dismissed by Council following a probity audit.

Ronald Yuryevich has been appointed as Commissioner of the Shire of Ashburton. His most recent role is Mayor of the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

Acting CEO Frank Ludovico said in terms of the business of the Shire of Ashburton, essentially it is not going to be any different.

"The Council has been replaced by a Commissioner who has all the powers and responsibilities of the Council, and instead of nine people, there is only one person," said Mr Ludovico.

"Council meetings will continue and Shire of Ashburton staff and contractors will still provide good local government services to the community."

"It is unfortunate that our local government has to go through this process, but it gives people opportunity to learn from the issues and we will become a better organisation because of that," he said.

ENDS

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